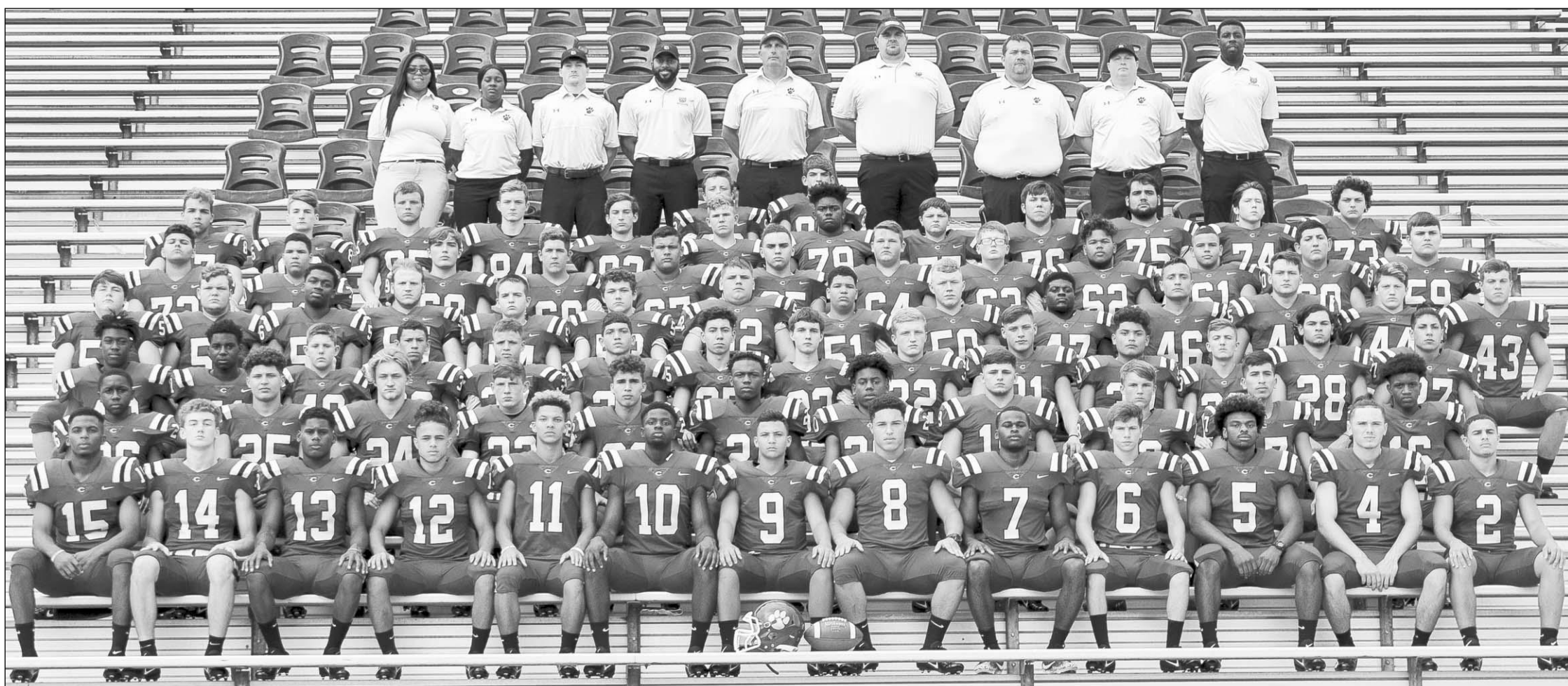


# CITRONELLE



The 2018 Citronelle High School Wildcats

Citronelle photos by William Gray/Call News

## Cats must work hard for wins

BY WILLIE GRAY  
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This football season finds the Citronelle Wildcats still in Class 5A, Region 1 competition. After last season, the Alabama High School Athletic Association implemented its latest round of reclassifications in which a number of schools moved into different classifications, and as a result, some teams were taken out of 5A and others were inserted into the classification.

Gone from Citronelle's schedule will be the St. Paul's Saints and the Williamson Lions. St. Paul's moved into the Class 6A bracket and the Lions fell to Class 4A play. Joining the Wildcats and other members of Class 5A, Region 1 will be Satsuma, moving up from 4A to create a seven-team region.

"I don't think there is an agreement that Region 1 is the toughest overall region in the state, regardless of which division you are

in, and ours is no different," said Citronelle interim head coach Jason Barnett.

In addition to the Satsuma Gators, the Wildcats have Jackson, Vigor, LeFlore, Faith Academy and Wilcox Central as region opponents. Their non-region opponents for the season are Washington County, Leroy, Mary Montgomery and Mobile Christian.

"We are focusing on winning one game at a time and gaining the opportunity to play in the postseason," Barnett said. "We have our work cut out for us because there is not a guaranteed win on our schedule. As a matter of fact, we are going to have to coach our tails off and our players are going to have to work hard to beat these teams. But I have faith in our kids and our coaches and I have no doubt that we will be as prepared as a team can be when we step on the field. We will just have to see if that is good enough."

The season opens for the Wildcats on Aug. 24

when they travel to Chatom to face the Bulldogs of Washington County High. This will mark the third time the two teams have played each other and the past two years ended with the Wildcats winning.

One week later, Citronelle will host another 2A program when Leroy visits Gatlin Field. In 2016, Citronelle defeated the Bears 35-24, but last season the Bears beat the Wildcats 43-6.

When asked about playing the two smaller schools Barnett said it is his opinion the competition is good for both programs.

See **WILDCATS**, 5C



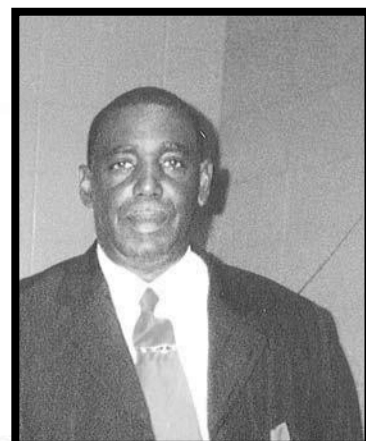
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— Coach Jason Barnett

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